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SERVICE DATE – MAY 8, 2018

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

Docket No. AB 33 (Sub-No. 334X)

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY—ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION—  
IN MCLENNAN COUNTY, TEX.

Decided: May 7, 2018

Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 C.F.R. pt. 1152 subpart F—Exempt Abandonments to abandon 0.5 miles of the former Mart Line near Waco, Tex., between milepost 173.2 and milepost 173.7 near the TX 340 Loop crossing, in McLennan County, Tex. (the Line). Notice of the exemption was served and published in the Federal Register on April 9, 2018 (83 Fed. Reg. 15,189). The exemption is scheduled to become effective on May 9, 2018.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) served an environmental assessment (EA) recommending that one condition be imposed on any decision granting abandonment authority. In the EA, OEA stated that the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality (TCEQ) recommended that UP ensure best management practices to control runoff from construction sites to prevent detrimental impact to surface and groundwater. Accordingly, OEA recommended an environmental condition requiring UP to consult with TCEQ regarding best management practices for salvage activities and to comply with that agency's reasonable recommendations.

OEA issued its final EA on April 27, 2018, noting that no comments to the EA were received and reiterating its recommendation that the one previously recommended condition be imposed. Accordingly, the condition recommended by OEA in the EA and final EA will be imposed.

This decision, and the proposed abandonment if implemented as conditioned, will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

It is ordered:

1. This proceeding is reopened.
2. Upon reconsideration, the notice served and published in the Federal Register on April 9, 2018, exempting the abandonment of the Line described above is subject to the

condition that prior to the commencement of salvage activities related to the proposed abandonment, UP shall consult with TCEQ regarding the use of best management practices to control runoff and prevent detrimental impacts to surface and ground water and shall follow the reasonable recommendations of TCEQ for ensuring that best management practices are adopted during salvage activities.

3. This decision is effective on its service date.

By the Board, Scott M. Zimmerman, Acting Director, Office of Proceedings.